



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Keith L. Milliman et al.      Docket: 1924DIV3CON2  
(203-2145 DIV3CON2)

Serial No.: 10/700,250      Group: Unknown

Filed: November 3, 2003      Dated: January 30, 2004

For: **SURGICAL STAPLING APPARATUS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

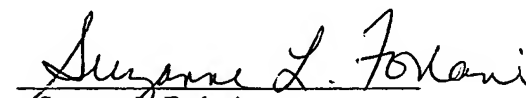
**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 30, 2004.

Dated: January 30, 2004

  
Suzanne L. Forlani